

## Efficiency Committee Minutes April 17, 2012

NEWMARKET SCHOOL/TOWN EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF NEWMARKET  
186 MAIN STREET  
NEWMARKET, NH 03857  
April 17, 2012  
APPROVED MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Bob Coffey, Ed Wojnowski, Mike LaBranche, Jim Hayes, Todd Berry, Larry Pickering, Cliff Chase, Charlie Smart,

Absent: Meg Louney-Moore, Joan Liporto, Brian Hart, and Jennifer Donahue.

Also present: Mike Branley from MRI.

CALL TO ORDER: Bob called the Meeting at 6:00 PM.

MOTION: Jim made a motion to approve the amended minutes from the Committee's 3/26 meeting, seconded by Ed. Motion passed unanimously.

Update from the Chairman: Bob said that he spoke to Brian and at this time he cannot chair the regionalization workgroup. Bob asked for a volunteer to serve as chair, but no one volunteered at this time.

Mike L. stated that the Committee was originally organized with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Town Council; he is no longer Chair and the former Vice Chair is no longer on the Council. How should this be addressed? The Committee agreed that they will reach out to Councilor Al Zink to see if he would join and Mike will check with the Town Council to confirm this is okay. Cliff stated that the School Board is treating the Efficiency Committee as just another Committee assignment for its members.

Subcommittee/Workgroup reports:

Accounting/Finance: Jennifer is taking a short-term step back from the Accounting group. Ed will be working with Bob to fill in for her.

Regionalization: Nothing to report other than Brian stepping back from the workgroup.

Five-year vision: Cliff said the workgroup met and discussed the following: software, fuel purchasing (possibly identify a single type of fuel to increase buying power), ways Newmarket can work with its neighbors, the need to institutionalize changes and cooperation, facilities, capital assets, elimination of redundancies, custodial services, etc.

Tactics: This workgroup has met twice since the last full Committee meeting. One of the major topics of discussion has been the possibility of transitioning vehicles and equipment to propane. Larry said that across the US and in other countries organizations have switched their fleets over and have seen significant savings. One of the challenges now is that there is no one around here that can transition the vehicles. It was asked and Charlie answered that the transition will not effect the vehicles' warranties. Representatives of Mr. Proulx's organization will meet with some of the staff who perform fleet maintenance for the Town. Mike L asked where the vehicles would fill up with propane: Larry said this came up: there may be some locations available or the town could build their own down the road. Todd asked about how big the tanks are. Charlie responded that they can be either around 50 or 37 gallons depending on where the fuel tank is located. The miles per gallon for propane is roughly 10 % lower than gasoline but the cost per gallon is significantly less. Cliff stated and Larry agreed that regionalization will need to be discussed early in this process to try to maximize cost savings. Charlie said he would like to see a cost comparison to see where the return on investment is met after transitioning a piece of equipment.

Bob said he, Charlie, and Larry reviewed the checklist that they had put together previously about what things the School and Town each do individually to show to the governing bodies as things they should look to consolidate.

Health Insurance- Bob said they are looking at raising the deductible and lowering the premiums without forcing the employees to pay the difference in deductible. This could still have a significant annual savings with no impact to the employee. Cliff said it is important that the Committee works closely with the teachers' union. Charlie mentioned that several other towns are exploring similar routes and significant saving with potentially better coverage.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Next meeting set for May 21 at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Cliff made the motion, seconded by Mike L.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Bob adjourned the meeting at 6:40.

Respectfully Submitted by Mike Branley